

THE ASSASSINS.

Here About the Arrest of Surratt—The English Authorities at Malta Refuse to Interfere—Surratt's Informer and His Reward.

Naples Correspondence of the London Times. The receipt of a letter at the American Consulate in this city last evening, from the United States authorities in Malta, compels me to advert to a subject which may create some uneasiness. Surratt, one of the conspirators against the late President Lincoln, has been for ten months or more in the service of the Pope in the regiment of Zouaves, but quitting it and flying from Rome, he arrived in Naples about a fortnight since, wearing the uniform of the Zouaves. On Sunday, the 18th, the American Consul received a telegram from his colleague in Rome, to the effect that the said Surratt was none other than Surratt, and ordering his immediate arrest. Immediate application was made to the police of Naples, and every possible facility afforded, but it was found they were too late, and that the criminal had started the night before by the Liverpool screw Tripoli for Malta and Alexandria.

The telegraph was then put in communication with Malta, and directions were given to the Consul-General of the United States in that island to arrest Surratt immediately on his arrival. A letter received at the American Consulate only last evening states that the Tripoli touched at Malta early on Monday morning, the 19th; that the Consul immediately applied for power to arrest Surratt; that no answer was returned till just before the hour of the departure of the Tripoli for Alexandria; and that the answer was in the negative, on the ground of there being no authority for doing so. Telegrams have, therefore, been sent from the United States representatives in Rome, Naples, and Malta, to the Consul in Alexandria, and as vessels from Liverpool undergo a quarantine in that city, it is fully expected that Surratt will there be captured. On this ground, the British authorities at Malta decline to act is not known, and it would be premature, therefore, to express any opinion on the subject; but the mere fact of their having declined has created the worst possible feeling in the minds of American agents. The Consul at Malta expressed the opinion that it was by "a mere legal quibble" the head and front of the conspiracy was permitted to escape; and here I have heard the refusal of the British authorities to act contrasted with the readiness which was shown in America to give up Muller. It must, however, be clear to every dispassionate person that there is not the slightest parallel between the knowledge of either of Muller the American authorities had been applied to some days before his arrival, and all the forms observed which the Treaty of Extradition required; in the present case a telegram only conveyed the information, and Muller have reason to believe that a despatch has been already sent to Mr. Seward couched in the strongest terms, and as Americans are disposed to regard almost every act, word, and thought of England as being hostile to their country may be expected. From the sympathy and indignation which were expressed in England at the time of the assassination of Mr. Lincoln, and which were as deeply felt and expressed by every Englishman, it is not surprising that there can be no disposition on our part to screen from justice any one who was implicated in that heinous crime.

Naples, November 29.—Since writing my last letter I have received the following details of the adventures of Surratt since his arrival in Italy. About ten months ago he entered the Pontifical service, and was drafted into the 5th Company of Zouaves. Without the knowledge of either of them, a young man who had been educated together with Surratt in the College of Maryland, also entered the same service, and was enrolled in the 4th Company of the Zouaves. Having been quartered in different places, they never met, but about six months ago both companies were sent to the same locality to execute some maneuver against the brigands. On this Surratt by name, and his companion assumed the name of Prince, and his name was now known only as John Watson. A day or two afterwards the companion, professing to be disgusted at serving with assassins, sought out General King, American Consul at Rome, and told him the whole affair. On being assured that there was no mistake as to the identity of Surratt, the General desired the informer to remain quiet, said he should ask his Government for instructions, and held out promise of a reward. The American Government, in reply, desired their Minister to secure Surratt, and General King called on Cardinal Antonelli and begged to know whether, in the event of his identifying Surratt and wishing to arrest him, his Eminence would permit it. The Cardinal replied that, though no treaty of extradition existed between the two countries, they were in a position to do as they liked, and could have no objection to his doing so. To this still, he must consult his Holiness. Three days later his Eminence sent for General King, and showed him the orders for the arrest, and on his own responsibility afterwards sent to the commanding officer at Velletri directions to secure Surratt, who was arrested at Vallecorsa. Though guarded by five Zouaves, he managed to throw himself into a deep ravine, saw falling upon himself severe injuries, the marks of which he bore on his arrival in Naples, and, as Vallecorsa is only two or three miles from the frontier, easily crossed it. Here he was arrested by the Custom House authorities, he having no passport, and being in the Pontifical uniform, and was immediately released. On learning these facts, General King, it is said, left aggrieved, and stated that he had not requested his Eminence to arrest him, but had only asked for power to do so in the event of the demand being made. He immediately communicated with Mr. Marsh, the American Minister at Florence, by Mr. Marsh was being at Venice with the King, and on Mr. Marsh's return, and calling on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, he found that his Excellency was doing the same. Thus, much time was lost, but the Secretary promised every assistance, adding that, though Surratt were arrested, he felt assured that his Government would not give him up except on the condition of his life being spared. This much was decided on Thursday, the 15th instant, and as Mr. Swan, the American Consul, did not receive any despatch urging him to act until Sunday, the 18th, it was too late, as the bird had flown. To the details I may add that General King gave the informer \$250 in gold, and held out the promised reward of \$10,000 more, on the arrest being effected. If the American Government is really desirous of securing its man, I am disposed to believe that it was with a view to procure evidence of the complicity of Jefferson Davis in the conspiracy against President Lincoln, and evidence of that or any other crime might, perhaps, be easily furnished by a man who abandoned his own mother, and left her to be hanged; at the same time it would almost appear, from the bearing of some of the diplomatic agents, that the Government would have been glad had the subject not been revived. Certain it is, that I have heard Americans express a regret that, as poor Lincoln's death had been simply avenged, Surratt had not been left alone to bear about with him his own punishment.

The Work of the Session.

From the Nation. The country is beginning to inquire somewhat anxiously what Congress is going to do to put an end to the existing state of doubt and uncertainty. But beyond Mr. Stevens' North Carolina bill nothing has been done which looks like, or foreshadows, a plan to be carried out should the amendment fail of adoption. Mr. Stevens' bill, which proposes to call a fresh convention in North Carolina, to be elected by all males able to read and write or owning \$100 worth of property, exclusive of those who aided or abetted the Rebellion, for the purpose of forming a constitution for the State, would, a year ago, have looked horribly radical; but there is now little question that it is, supposing the amendment to fail, the most sensible and conservative plan yet submitted to the public—and we may add that it, or something like it, is according to present appearances, pretty sure in the end to be adopted not for North Carolina only, but for all the States. We believe it is not entirely Mr. Stevens' own; at all events, it embodies the views of the North Carolina States, and would satisfy them. No matter what the true theory of the position of the rebel States may be, no matter whether they are in or out of the Union, or in a limbo which is neither nor, out, a convention elected by the able inhabitants of each State, without distinction of race or color, excluding Rebels, is the proper instrument for the reorganization of the Government.

Neither Congress nor President can devise any other plan so good, or half as well suited to the habits of the people and the spirit of our institutions. There is no use whatever in arguing against the participation of the negroes in such a work. To prohibit the exclusion from a convention would be to surrender the principle of equality before the law, which the North has set its heart on establishing, and the South may as well make up its mind that there is no likelihood of anything of the kind. As the freedom of the class most in danger of oppression, they are the class, of all others, which has the best right to be consulted in forming the organic law. The men whom they chose to represent them in the Convention would go there charged with the duty of protecting the insertion in the Constitution of any distinction or discrimination based on color. On all other points the whites would probably have their way; and if an educational or property qualification were established by such a convention, there are very few people at the North who would offer much opposition to it.

The horror of sitting with negroes in convention, or of seeing them voting, has its more substantial than the horror of seeing negroes free was a few years ago. To submit to the presence of negroes in the Legislature or at the polls would be, no doubt, to most Northerners a cold plunge into a sea of shock and repugnance, but the experience would not seem so very unpleasant after all. Finding that nothing dreadful came of it, they would soon get used to it, as they have to seeing negroes working for wages and testifying in court of justice. In fact, we have no sort of doubt that there are thousands of sensible Northerners wishing, in their secret hearts, that Congress would push them over the brink, so as to save their honor. False pride, and various other things quite as substantial, restrain Northerners from taking active measures to do what the North wants; but the mass would submit gracefully enough to whatever we did for them, and asking their leave. It ought to be well understood, however, before any such convention meets, that no constitution will be approved of which does not make the provision of a fair and equal suffrage for all citizens. In fact, we have no sort of doubt that there are thousands of sensible Northerners wishing, in their secret hearts, that Congress would push them over the brink, so as to save their honor. False pride, and various other things quite as substantial, restrain Northerners from taking active measures to do what the North wants; but the mass would submit gracefully enough to whatever we did for them, and asking their leave. It ought to be well understood, however, before any such convention meets, that no constitution will be approved of which does not make the provision of a fair and equal suffrage for all citizens.

Beyond this, Congress has, as yet, done little or nothing. Mr. Sumner has introduced a string of resolutions into the Senate, tracing out the course to be pursued in the reconstruction of the rebel States, and on which the House should be based; but though strong, sensible, and well drawn, they contain nothing new, and carry us, for all practical purposes, no further than we were last year. Besides this, nothing is done beyond what has been done, and to inquire into the murder of certain Union soldiers in South Carolina and into the New Orleans massacre. The only result of these inquiries will be the production of a great quantity of evidence, which will read, and on which no action will ever be taken. These Congressional inquiries all end in smoke. Long before they are finished the public is tired of the whole matter, and knows all about it, and after having studied the reports, and read the newspapers, the testimony goes to the waste-paper dealer.

There never was an investigation of this kind undertaken with more solicitude than that into the massacre of Fort Pillow, but nothing ever came of it. It did not even prevent Forrest from being paroled, and does not prevent him now from attending Johnson meetings and upholding the policy. Of late years several of these committees are fitted up at the beginning of every session, and launched and sent off on voyages of discovery amidst the huzzas of both Houses and of the Washington correspondents of the daily papers. The public holds its breath for about a month, and then, hearing nothing, goes about its business, and in about six months the explorers turn up with a few well-known facts, wrapped up in recommendations which nobody heeds.

Next to the condition of the South, the most important questions to be considered by the present Congress are the currency and the tariff. The facts of the case are that our revenue is far larger than our needs, that industry is languishing, that commercial marine almost extinct, our agricultural products falling behind the wants of the population, and prices of every commodity, in spite of the recent decline, enormously high. The advantages enjoyed by foreigners in competition with our own markets are so great, in spite of the heavy duties and the premium on gold, that in many branches of industry—books, for instance—they have driven, or are driving, us out of the field. One set of political economists, who are represented by the Tribune in the press, and by Mr. Stevens in Congress, and who invariably open the discussion of this subject, are in favor of a free trade, and are dividing, us out of the field. One set of political economists, who are represented by the Tribune in the press, and by Mr. Stevens in Congress, and who invariably open the discussion of this subject, are in favor of a free trade, and are dividing, us out of the field.

Mr. McCulloch is evidently disposed to account for the present depression of trade partly by the horrible condition of the internal revenue law, and the absence of all fixed relation between it and the tariff on foreign imports. Mr. George Walker, in the clearest bit of reasoning which has yet appeared on the subject, ascribes to the condition of the currency, gold, he says, having been too "demoralized," has fallen below its natural price, or is, in other words, extraordinarily cheap, while the paper currency is nearly treble what the country requires. In consequence of this, he says, the foreigner, who comes here and sells their commodities are able to purchase gold or bills of exchange there with at rates so advantageous as to enable them to make head against the high duties on imports, gold being really more valuable in Europe than here. Mr. Walker is not a free-trader, but he is a sensible man, and if protectionists of his stamp can be got to take this matter out of the hands of the "sweeping economists" of the Tribune school, whose syllogisms are apt to consist of two war whoops and one "bad name," there would be some chance of a settlement of the tariff that would at least not do discredit to our intelligence.

The chances are, however, that the whole

question will be discussed as it was last year—secretly in committee, in which all the influences, good, bad, and indifferent, of jobbing deputations from the various "interests" will be brought into play; that Mr. Davis' A. Wells' report, which, like no other, will be totally neglected, and a bill will be thrust into the House marked by every fault which a bill can have, in the last days of the session, and forced through under the "previous question," to be approved in the Senate, thus leaving the country for another year a prey to the existing disorder. We can at present have neither such a tariff as the protectionists nor the free-traders desire, for the simple reason that, whether the correct theory of the tariff question is in favor of such a tariff as to enforce its own policy, and all attempts made by the protectionists to carry their tariff by the protectionists, and all attempts made by the free-traders to carry their tariff by the free-traders, will be frustrated by the fact that the country can bear up under any reasonable amount of financial blundering, provided there be some method and persistence in it. What trade and commerce cannot bear is uncertainty, and uncertainty is the result of the present régime. The American man is pretty sure to make his way either under protection or free trade; but he must know which it is to be, and he let alone once he has made his arrangements. Of the tariff question, which is not yet quite settled, there is a strong majority, is the tendency to believe that great power, conferred for one purpose may be used lawfully for all purposes; and the present Congress has acted all along as if its position on the tariff question was not yet quite settled, and which the Budget declares to be a fresh guarantee for the peace of Europe.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE IN FRANCE. PARIS, December 20.—Evening.—President Johnson's Message is published in full in the Paris journals, and has had a much better effect in all circles than was anticipated, after the reception of the meagre telegraphic summary, which failed to do it justice.

THE SOUTHERN STATES. NORTH CAROLINA. A Freedman Whipped—Interference of United States Officers. RALEIGH, December 20.—Colonel Bonford, commanding the United States military forces in this State, interfered and prevented the Sheriff from inflicting corporal punishment on the person of a negro this morning.

Judge Daniel D. Fowle ordered the indictment of all the military officers who were concerned in that transaction. The negro was returned after receiving eight lashes. The soldiers left the ground. Indictments will be issued against the officers. The negro will be whipped to-morrow. Judge Fowle ordered the Governor to carry out the laws of the State.

Wilmington Municipal Election—Execution for Robbery. WILMINGTON, December 20.—The municipal election passed off to-day amid great excitement, but without success. He was born in Gettysburg, Pa., about the year 1836. Choosing the profession of printer, he was first employed in Philadelphia, but afterwards went to New Orleans to become foreman of the Picayune newspaper. He left the paper in 1859, and returned to California, and thence to Japan and China, and back again to California, which State he left on the breaking out of the war. He made his way overland to Texas, where he resided during the Rebellion. A few months ago he returned to California, and became foreman of the Picayune office by the proprietors, but he died the day after landing in New Orleans. He stood high in his profession, and was esteemed by all who knew him. The New Orleans Typographical Society paid appropriate homage to his remains.

REJECTION OF THE AMENDMENT IN THE LOWER HOUSE. COLUMBIA, December 20.—The House rejected the Constitutional amendment by a vote of 95 against 1.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN PRINTER. Alexander Hamilton Hayes, a printer, well known throughout the United States, but especially so in New Orleans, died in the latter city several days ago. He was born in Gettysburg, Pa., about the year 1836. Choosing the profession of printer, he was first employed in Philadelphia, but afterwards went to New Orleans to become foreman of the Picayune newspaper. He left the paper in 1859, and returned to California, and thence to Japan and China, and back again to California, which State he left on the breaking out of the war. He made his way overland to Texas, where he resided during the Rebellion. A few months ago he returned to California, and became foreman of the Picayune office by the proprietors, but he died the day after landing in New Orleans. He stood high in his profession, and was esteemed by all who knew him. The New Orleans Typographical Society paid appropriate homage to his remains.

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CONCLUSION OF A DEBENTURE CASE. The case of the City vs. Beck, before the Court last Friday, was concluded to-day. The Court then made a temporary order for the wife and children, and gave Beck time to bring in witnesses, whose testimony would tend to justify his desertion. He produced a witness, who testified that during the war Mrs. Beck, the complainant, went to Camp Distribution, at Alexandria, and there up at a hotel in Washington. There was also other testimony to show adultery on the part of the wife.

DEBENTURE CASES. ON ACCOUNT OF A PRESSURE OF BUSINESS these cases were heard and disposed of to-day in the room of the Common Pleas.

CITY vs. JOSEPH BARKER. At the complaint of his wife, McKenny accused to pay \$6, and the matter was held over.

CITY vs. WILLIAM HUMPHREYS. The wife has been married to her present husband twelve years, and has one child nine years old. The family came from Scotland, and she had an infant in her womb, and went to live with his sister, telling his wife to look for a situation, and expect no support from him. These statements were backed by the witnesses for the husband, who also gave the wife a very bad character.

MICROSCOPIC SEAWEEDES.—The extensive collection of microscopic seaweeds, technically known as Diatoms, belonging to the late Dr. Greville, has been recently acquired by the Botanical Department of the British Museum. They contain all the types specimens so exhaustively figured by him in the Transactions of the Microscopical Society, and in other journals, as well as of the more obscure species described and figured by the late Professor Gregory.

THIRD EDITION EUROPE.

FINANCIAL NEWS TO-DAY. By Atlantic Submarine Cable.

LONDON, December 21.—Noon.—United States Five-twentieths of 1862 are quoted this morning at 71 1/2. The new issue is quoted at 70 1/2. LONDON, December 21.—Noon.—Consols opened at 90 for money. Erie Railroad shares, 45 1/2; Illinois Central, 84 1/2. LIVERPOOL, December 21.—Noon.—The Cotton Market opened steady at 14 1/4 for middling uplands. The sales will probably reach 12,000 bales. Lard is quoted at a decline of 2s. Lard is 6d. lower.

LAST NIGHT'S DESPATCHES.

FRANCE. The French Budget. PARIS, December 20.—Evening.—The French Budget shows a definite balance in estimated receipts over expenditures for the incoming financial year. No new taxes are to be levied on account of the army scheme which has just been promulgated, and which the Budget declares to be a fresh guarantee for the peace of Europe.

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MEXICO.

FROM BALTIMORE TO-DAY.

General Sherman Has an Interview with a Representative of Juarez—Arrival of General Sherman at New Orleans, Etc.

Sherman Meets Escobedo—Juarez to be in San Luis Next Month—The Trick in the Matamoros Occupation.

General Sherman at New Orleans—Reception of the General and Minister Campbell by Escobedo at Matamoros—Probable Return of General Sherman to St. Louis.

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Important Insurance Decision—The Cold Snap—Canvas-Back Ducks, Etc.

(SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.)

BALTIMORE, December 21.—In the Superior Court yesterday, under Judge Martin's instructions, the jury decided against Penn & Mitchell, assignees of Richard Snowden, who brought suit to recover five thousand dollars from the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. Payment was resisted on the grounds that Snowden went South in 1861, joined the Rebel army, and afterwards died from disease there contracted.

This was held to be a violation of the policy, though the premium had been regularly paid by Penn & Mitchell, to whose benefit the amount issued had been assigned and payable. It is intensely cold, and splendid skating. Canvas-back ducks are selling at eight to ten dollars a pair.

Gas Works Explosion. NEW YORK, December 21.—The Gas Works at Astoria, opposite the upper section of the city exploded early this morning. Fortunately no one was hurt.

Markets by Telegraph. NEW YORK, December 21.—Gold quoted at 131 1/2; it has been 133 1/2. Exchange, 10 1/2 @ 10 1/2; at sight, 10 1/2 @ 10 1/2. Government Stocks very quiet; Five-twentieths coupon, 100; do of 1867, 100; do of 1868, 100; do of 1869, 100; do of 1870, 100; do of 1871, 100; do of 1872, 100; do of 1873, 100; do of 1874, 100; do of 1875, 100; do of 1876, 100; do of 1877, 100; do of 1878, 100; do of 1879, 100; do of 1880, 100; do of 1881, 100; do of 1882, 100; do of 1883, 100; do of 1884, 100; do of 1885, 100; do of 1886, 100; do of 1887, 100; do of 1888, 100; do of 1889, 100; do of 1890, 100; do of 1891, 100; do of 1892, 100; do of 1893, 100; do of 1894, 100; do of 1895, 100; do of 1896, 100; do of 1897, 100; do of 1898, 100; do of 1899, 100; do of 1900, 100; do of 1901, 100; do of 1902, 100; do of 1903, 100; do of 1904, 100; do of 1905, 100; do of 1906, 100; do of 1907, 100; do of 1908, 100; do of 1909, 100; do of 1910, 100; do of 1911, 100; do of 1912, 100; do of 1913, 100; do of 1914, 100; do of 1915, 100; do of 1916, 100; do of 1917, 100; do of 1918, 100; do of 1919, 100; do of 1920, 100; do of 1921, 100; do of 1922, 100; do of 1923, 100; do of 1924, 100; do of 1925, 100; do of 1926, 100; do of 1927, 100; do of 1928, 100; do of 1929, 100; do of 1930, 100; do of 1931, 100; do of 1932, 100; do of 1933, 100; do of 1934, 100; do of 1935, 100; do of 1936, 100; do of 1937, 100; do of 1938, 100; do of 1939, 100; do of 1940, 100; do of 1941, 100; do of 1942, 100; do of 1943, 100; do of 1944, 100; do of 1945, 100; do of 1946, 100; do of 1947, 100; do of 1948, 100; do of 1949, 100; do of 1950, 100; do of 1951, 100; do of 1952, 100; do of 1953, 100; do of 1954, 100; do of 1955, 100; do of 1956, 100; do of 1957, 100; do of 1958, 100; do of 1959, 100; do of 1960, 100; do of 1961, 100; do of 1962, 100; do of 1963, 100; do of 1964, 100; do of 1965, 100; do of 1966, 100; do of 1967, 100; do of 1968, 100; do of 1969, 100; do of 1970, 100; do of 1971, 100; do of 1972, 100; do of 1973, 100; do of 1974, 100; do of 1975, 100; do of 1976, 100; do of 1977, 100; do of 1978, 100; do of 1979, 100; do of 1980, 100; do of 1981, 100; do of 1982, 100; do of 1983, 100; do of 1984, 100; do of 1985, 100; do of 1986, 100; do of 1987, 100; do of 1988, 100; do of 1989, 100; do of 1990, 100; do of 1991, 100; do of 1992, 100; do of 1993, 100; do of 1994, 100; do of 1995, 100; do of 1996, 100; do of 1997, 100; do of 1998, 100; do of 1999, 100; do of 2000, 100; do of 2001, 100; do of 2002, 100; do of 2003, 100; do of 2004, 100; do of 2005, 100; do of 2006, 100; do of 2007, 100; do of 2008, 100; do of 2009, 100; do of 2010, 100; do of 2011, 100; do of 2012, 100; do of 2013, 100; do of 2014, 100; do of 2015, 100; do of 2016, 100; do of 2017, 100; do of 2018, 100; do of 2019, 100; do of 2020, 100; do of 2021, 100; do of 2022, 100; do of 2023, 100; do of 2024, 100; do of 2025, 100; do of 2026, 100; do of 2027, 100; do of 2028, 100; do of 2029, 100; do of 2030, 100; do of 2031, 100; do of 2032, 100; do of 2033, 100; do of 2034, 100; do of 2035, 100; do of 2036, 100; do of 2037, 100; do of 2038, 100; do of 2039, 100; do of 2040, 100; do of 2041, 100; do of 2042, 100; do of 2043, 100; do of 2044, 100; do of 2045, 100; do of 2046, 100; do of 2047, 100; do of 2048, 100; do of 2049, 100; do of 2050, 100; do of 2051, 100; do of 2052, 100; do of